

# ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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## Memorandum

**To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD**

**From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair John Simon**

**Re: May & June 2002 meetings**

**Date: June 28, 2002**

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The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met May 18 and June 19, 2002 at Pizzeria Uno's on Maple Road. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members Simon, Boody, Cusack, Eldridge, Erck, and Titus, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein. Present for the June meeting were subcommittee members Simon, Cusack, Eldridge, Erck, and Titus, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein.

### Regional Economic Development Database (REDD)

A decision must be made soon about the future site of the database. The original idea was to transition the site from UB to the BNE, but the BNE has stated that it cannot properly maintain the database. Erie County's Department of Environment and Planning has offered to transition the REDD to its department. Concerns over frequency of updates, timeliness of response to inquiries, and the possible perception of parochialism make this offer less than desirable in the opinion of the subcommittee. **The Economic Development Subcommittee is therefore requesting that the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership go on record as supporting the REDD remaining at the University at Buffalo under the guidance of the Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth.**

### One Stop Shop

The concept of creating a "one stop shop" for economic development in each county was discussed. This new entity would incorporate many efforts such as electronic and standardized permitting, the REDD, incentives, and workforce development. While creating such an entity and coordinating it with the municipalities would be difficult, it is believed that at least exploring the issue is of merit. It is imperative that the process of economic development be made as user friendly as possible.

### Niagara Falls Airport

Following the recommendation of the full ENRP, resolutions were introduced in Erie and Niagara Counties to urge the NFTA to allow the NCIDA to develop a financial and strategic plan for the Niagara Falls Airport. In other news, the NFTA is currently in the process of hiring an airport manager for the Niagara Falls Airport. The continued concern is the lack of progress in developing the facility.

### Brownfields

While the BNE's working group is progressing with their follow up to the site readiness study by prioritizing near shovel ready sites for development, something must be done about brownfields. Niagara County has received funds to identify brownfields in their county, and has put together a comprehensive list of the sites. Erie County should do the same. There are currently brownfield pilot projects in development in both counties. In the power relicensing process, \$10 million per year for demolition of brownfields facilities has been requested from the New York Power Authority.

### Other Topics

Other topics discussed included casino gaming, electronic permitting, and waterfront redevelopment.